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Letter dated 22 July 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter addressed to you by Mahmoud Hammoud, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigrants of the Republic of Lebanon, concerning your report on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 17 January to 12 July 2002 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the enclosed letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Houssam Asaad **Diab**

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Annex to the letter dated 22 July 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

I have read with extreme interest your report on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) covering the period from 17 January to 12 July 2002. While commending your sustained efforts to maintain stability and security in the region, I am pleased to also commend the work carried out by the officers and staff of UNIFIL in effectively monitoring the situation in the region, a task that plays an important role in keeping the calm in the area from which Israel withdrew in May 2000. The Government of Lebanon is keen to preserve the calm in that area. I am pleased by the fact that you appreciate the work done by the Government of Lebanon in maintaining the calm in that area and would like to reiterate our determination to keep on doing so.

While I commend all the positive points included in your report, I would like to assure you that Lebanon has been and is scrupulously committed to the resolutions of the Security Council and international legitimacy. As for the issue of the Shebaa Farms and the three points on the Blue Line, your position is very well known to us, as our position is known to you. Besides that and with reference to paragraph 28 of your report, Lebanon is a founding member of the United Nations and is committed to its legitimacy. Lebanon is not only willing to fulfil its obligations but is also one of the first States calling for the full implementation of its resolutions. In this context, Lebanon calls on Israel to respect those resolutions and to put an end to its continuous provocation of Lebanon by its violation of Lebanese sovereignty by air and sea.

Lebanon would like to assure you that it is providing full freedom of movement to UNIFIL throughout its entire region of operations and is very keen to preserve it. Lebanon will keep on maintaining the same position.

(*Signed*) Mahmoud **Hammoud**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigrants